

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03
ACDA-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 TRSE-00
/053 W

-----053430 050855Z /20

R 050645Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO USMISSION NATO
USMISSION BERLIN
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SECSTATE WASHDC 8043
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FOR PAOS, PIOS, IOS, STATE FOR EUR, USIA FOR IEU

E.O. 11652: NA
SUBJECT: ATLANTIC COMMUNITY TOUR - POLITICAL GUIDANCE

REF: ANKARA 4418 (DTG 081424Z JUN 77), ANKARA FM-25 (C)

1. THIS ATLANTIC COMMUNITY TOUR GROUP IS COMPOSED OF UNIVERSITY
RECTORS FROM UNIVERSITIES IN PROVINCIAL CAPITALS. THE PARTICI-
PANTS ARE POLITICALLY SENSITIVE BECAUSE TURKISH UNIVERSITIES
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ARE HIGHLY POLITICIZED, AND POLITICAL AFFILIATIONS GENERALLY PLAY
A ROLE IN THE SELECTION OF RECTORS. THEIR FIELDS OF EXPERTISE
ARE OTHER THAN FOREIGN AND MILITARY/SECURITY AFFAIRS AND THEY CAN
BE EXPECTED TO EXHIBIT SOME LACK OF SOPHISTICATION IN THESE AREAS.
THEREFORE, INFORMATION ABOUT NON-MILITARY ASPECTS OF NATO, SUCH
AS CCMS, SHOULD BE HIGHLIGHTED DURING BRIEFINGS.

2. LIKE MOST EDUCATED TURKS, SOME OF THE PARTICIPANTS WILL FEEL AMBIVALENT ABOUT TURKEY'S ROLE IN NATO. THEY SENSE THAT THEY ARE ON THE PERIPHERY OF THE ALLIANCE AND THAT THEY ARE NOT FULLY ACCEPTED BY THE OTHER MEMBERS. AS A RESULT, THEY QUESTION THE COMMITMENT OF OTHER ALLIANCE MEMBERS TO TURKEY'S DEFENSE AND BELIEVE THAT TURKEY HAS CONTRIBUTED MORE TO THE ALLIANCE THAN IT HAS RECEIVED. IN ADDITION, TURKS OFTEN EXPRESS BELIEF THAT TURKEY HAS BEEN SHORTCHANGED BY NATO AND THAT GREECE HAS RECEIVED PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT. THEY ALSO QUESTION ALLIANCE'S ABILITY AND WILLINGNESS TO MAKE GREEKS LIVE UP TO THEIR NATO OBLIGATIONS.

3. PARTICIPANTS CAN BE EXPECTED TO SHOW A STRONG INTEREST IN THE PROGRESS OF DETENT, AND IMPROVEMENT IN RELATIONS BETWEEN EAST AND WEST. PART OF THEIR PERCEPTION OF THIS PROCESS WILL INCLUDE CONVICTION THAT BECAUSE OF DETENTE THE AMERICAN COMMITMENT TO TURKEY'S SECURITY HAS BEEN REDUCED, AND THAT TURKEY HAS LAGGED SOMEWHAT BEHIND OTHER NATO ALLIES IN FURTHERING RELATIONS WITH USSR AND OTHER WARSAW PACT NATIONS DURING THE ERA OF DETENTE. THEY WILL ALSO BE INTERESTED IN STRATEGIC PLANNING, THE IMPACT OF NEW WEAPONS TECHNOLOGIES, CONTRAST OF NATO AND WARSAW PACT PRIORITIES, SOVIET NAVAL ACTIVITY IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN, AND THE ROLE OF GROUND FORCES IN NATO.

4. PARTICIPANTS WILL VIEW CONTINUATION OF CONGRESSIONALLY IMPOSED ARMS EMBARGO AS EVIDENCE THAT US IS NOT A DEPENDABLE ALLY. IT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WILL BE NON PRODUCTIVE TO ENGAGE IN DEBATE ON RATIONALE FOR THE EMBARGO AND DISCUSSION REGARDING GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS IN GENERAL AND THEIR DISPUTES IN THE AEGEAN AND CYPRUS IN PARTICULAR. WHILE BRIEFING OFFICERS SHOULD BE KNOWLEDGEABLE IN THESE AREAS, THEY SHOULD AVOID TIME CONSUMING EXCHANGES.

5. WHILE MOST OF THE PARTICIPANTS ARE LIKELY TO BE FAVORABLY INCLINED TOWARD NATO, THEY CAN BE EXPECTED TO ASK PROBING AND SOMETIMES STINGING QUESTIONS. RESPONSES TO SUCH QUESTIONS SHOULD BE FRANK BUT POSITIVE AS TURKS RESPOND POSITIVELY TO OPEN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF PROBLEMS AS OPPOSED TO ATTEMPTS TO IGNORE THEM OR PLAY THEM DOWN. ABOVE ALL, PARTICIPANTS SHOULD BE REMINDED THAT REGARDLESS OF DETENTE AND THE MANY OTHER CHANGES THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN THE LAST 25 YEARS, BOTH TURKEY AND THE ALLIANCE CONTINUE TO BENEFIT FROM A STRONG AND MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL RELATIONSHIP.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VISITS, PROFESSIONAL PERSONNEL, BRIEFINGS, REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ANKARA05026
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770237-0870
Format: TEL
From: ANKARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770793/aaaaddfg.tel
Line Count: 111
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 68315171-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 ANKARA 4418, 77 ANKARA 25
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26-Aug-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1972108
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ATLANTIC COMMUNITY TOUR - POLITICAL GUIDANCE
TAGS: PORG, SCUL, TU, NATO
To: NATO BRUSSELS BERLIN
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/68315171-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009